

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 289262
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT:BJR

APPROVED BY C:MNIMETZ

EUR:GSVEST

NSC:ZBRZEZINSKI

L:MFELDMAN

S/S:PTARNOFF

S/S-O:JETHYDEN

-----050795 040404Z /72

O 040340Z DEC 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 289262

NODIS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: SCUL, HU, US

SUBJECT:THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN

1. YOU ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO INFORM THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT ASAP THAT WE PROPOSE TO RETURN THE CROWN IN A PUBLIC CEREMONY IN BUDAPEST ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 6(OR 7) AT THE SAME TIME AS YOU DISCUSS PROPOSED DATE WITH THE GOH, YOU ALSO ARE REQUESTED TO SEEK GOH CONCURRENCE TO SEVERAL OTHER ESSENTIAL POINTS, AS DESCRIBED BELOW.

2. JOINT COMMUNIQUE. ALTHOUGH NO RPT NO FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN MADE HERE CONCERNING WHO WILL HEAD THE US DELEGATION, IN VIEW OF UNCERTAINTY WHICH STILL EXISTS IN
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MIND OF US CONGRESS AND PUBLIC AS TO TIMING AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE RETURN, WE BELIEVE IT HIGHLY DESIRABLE TO ISSUE THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCING THE RETURN OF THE CROWN JUST AS SOON AS REVISED TEXT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND DATE FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT AGREED. THIS WOULD SUPERSEDE THE PLAN ALREADY AGREED TO BY THE GOH TO HAVE SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT

MADE SIMULTANEOUSLY BY THE WHITE HOUSE AND HUNGARIAN
AUTHORITIES JUST PRIOR TO DEPARTURE OF THE CROWN AND

DELEGATION FOR BUDAPEST. THEREFORE, YOU ARE REQUESTED
TO SEEK GOH APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE TEXT:

BEGIN TEXT. THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA HAS DETERMINED THAT IT IS APPROPRIATE AND
FITTING THAT THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN AND OTHER
HUNGARIAN CORONATION REGALIA, WHICH HAVE BEEN SAFEGUARDED
IN THE UNITED STATES SINCE THE CLOSE OF WORLD
WAR II, BE RETURNED TO THE PEOPLE OF HUNGARY.

THE RETURN OF THE CROWN WILL TAKE PLACE IN BUDAPEST ON JAN.
6 (OR 7) IN A CEREMONY IN WHICH DELEGATIONS REPRESENTING
THE AMERICAN AND HUNGARIAN PEOPLES WILL PARTICIPATE.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC WILL
PLACE THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN AND THE CORONATION
REGALIA ON PERMANENT PUBLIC DISPLAY IN THE (VENUE) AT
BUDAPEST FOR THE POPULATION OF HUNGARY, HUNGARIANS
EVERYWHERE AND FOREIGNERS ALIKE TO SEE. END TEXT.

AS YOU WILL NOTE, REVISIONS WE HAVE MADE IN TEXT APPROVED
BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NAGY (BUDAPEST 3840) ARE
ESSENTIALLY TO EMPHASIZE PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE NATURE OF
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DELEGATIONS AND TO DELETE REFERENCES TO DELEGATION
LEADERS. YOU MAY ALSO INFORM GOH THAT WE APPROVE
CHANGE REQUESTED BY NAGY TO INSERT WORDS "THE POPULATION
OF HUNGARY" IN THE LAST SENTENCE.

3. EXCHANGE OF LETTERS. WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE
HIGHLY DESIRABLE TO CONCLUDE AN EXCHANGE
OF LETTERS WITH THE GOH JUST PRIOR TO PUBLIC RELEASE
OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH WOULD CONFIRM THE
ASSURANCES WITH RESPECT TO THE RETURN OF THE CROWN WHICH
EACH GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY PROVIDED TO THE OTHER. IN
VIEW OF THE INTENSE INTEREST IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES
SURROUNDING THE RETURN OF THE CROWN ON THE PART OF
SEGMENTS OF THE US PUBLIC AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, AND
IN LIGHT OF THE ACTION IN THE US COURTS INITIATED ON
DECEMBER 2, WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS
WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO THE ADMINISTRATION OVER
THE COURSE OF THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS IN PARTICULAR.
THEREFORE, YOU ARE REQUESTED TO SEEK GOH AGREEMENT TO
AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS AS CONTAINED IN PROPOSED TEXTS
WHICH WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL. YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT
LETTERS CONTAIN NOTHING NEW BUT SIMPLY CONFIRM ARRANGE-

MENTS WHICH ALREADY HAVE BEEN AGREED TO.

4. PARTICIPATION BY CARDINAL LEKAI. WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE FOR IT TO BE KNOWN PUBLICLY AT THE TIME JOINT COMMUNIQUE IS ISSUED THAT CARDINAL LEKAI IS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CEREMONY ACCEPTING THE CROWN. IT APPEARS TO US THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL POSSIBLE WAYS IN WHICH THIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED, E.G., IN DESCENDING ORDER OF OUR PREFERENCE, (A) THE CARDINAL HIMSELF COULD MAKE THIS KNOWN, POSSIBLY AS PART OF STATEMENT WELCOMING THE RETURN, (B) GOH COULD INFORM PRESS, PERHAPS ALSO NOTING NAMES OF OTHER PROMINENT HUNGARIAN RELIGIOUS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL LEADERS WHO WILL PARTICIPATE, (C) A USG SPOKESMAN COULD INFORM PRESS. YOU
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ARE REQUESTED TO EXPLORE THIS MATTER WITH THE GOH AND REPORT ASAP.

5. VISIT BY HUNGARIAN EXPERTS. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO INFORM GOH THAT WE WOULD WELCOME VISIT HERE BY HUNGARIAN EXPERT OR EXPERTS EARLY IN WEEK OF DECEMBER 12. PURPOSE OF VISIT WOULD BE TO RECEIVE REPORT OF AMERICAN EXPERTS CONCERNING CONDITION OF CROWN AND OTHER OBJECTS, TO INSPECT THE OBJECTS, PARTICIPATE IN ANY MINOR RESTORATION AS MAY BE AGREED, AND DISCUSS PACKING AND OTHER LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS. THE HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:LFLEISCHER

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:LFLEISCHER

-----051416 040823Z /14

O 040800Z DEC 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 289262

NODIS
WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

FOL SECSTATE 289262 SENT ACTION BUDAPEST DEC 4, 1977
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 289262

NODIS
FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: SCUL, HU, US

SUBJECT:THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN

1. YOU ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO INFORM THE HUNGARIAN
GOVERNMENT ASAP THAT WE PROPOSE TO RETURN THE CROWN IN
A PUBLIC CEREMONY IN BUDAPEST ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 6(OR 7) AT
THE SAME TIME AS YOU DISCUSS PROPOSED DATE WITH THE GOH,
YOU ALSO ARE REQUESTED TO SEEK GOH CONCURRENCE TO SEVERAL
OTHER ESSENTIAL POINTS, AS DESCRIBED BELOW.

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2. JOINT COMMUNIQUE. ALTHOUGH NO RPT NO FINAL DECISION
HAS BEEN MADE HERE CONCERNING WHO WILL HEAD THE US DELE-
GATION, IN VIEW OF UNCERTAINTY WHICH STILL EXISTS IN
MIND OF US CONGRESS AND PUBLIC AS TO TIMING AND
CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE RETURN, WE BELIEVE IT HIGHLY
DESIRABLE TO ISSUE THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNC-
ING THE RETURN OF THE CROWN JUST AS SOON AS REVISED TEXT
HAS BEEN APPROVED BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND DATE FOR THE
ANNOUNCEMENT AGREED. THIS WOULD SUPERSEDE THE PLAN
ALREADY AGREED TO BY THE GOH TO HAVE SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT
MADE SIMULTANEOUSLY BY THE WHITE HOUSE AND HUNGARIAN
AUTHORITIES JUST PRIOR TO DEPARTURE OF THE CROWN AND

DELEGATION FOR BUDAPEST. THEREFORE, YOU ARE REQUESTED
TO SEEK GOH APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE TEXT:

BEGIN TEXT. THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA HAS DETERMINED THAT IT IS APPROPRIATE AND

FITTING THAT THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN AND OTHER HUNGARIAN CORONATION REGALIA, WHICH HAVE BEEN SAFEGUARDED IN THE UNITED STATES SINCE THE CLOSE OF WORLD WAR II, BE RETURNED TO THE PEOPLE OF HUNGARY.

THE RETURN OF THE CROWN WILL TAKE PLACE IN BUDAPEST ON JAN. 6 (OR 7) IN A CEREMONY IN WHICH DELEGATIONS REPRESENTING THE AMERICAN AND HUNGARIAN PEOPLES WILL PARTICIPATE.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC WILL PLACE THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN AND THE CORONATION REGALIA ON PERMANENT PUBLIC DISPLAY IN THE (VENUE) AT BUDAPEST FOR THE POPULATION OF HUNGARY, HUNGARIANS EVERYWHERE AND FOREIGNERS ALIKE TO SEE. END TEXT.

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AS YOU WILL NOTE, REVISIONS WE HAVE MADE IN TEXT APPROVED BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NAGY (BUDAPEST 3840) ARE ESSENTIALLY TO EMPHASIZE PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE NATURE OF DELEGATIONS AND TO DELETE REFERENCES TO DELEGATION LEADERS. YOU MAY ALSO INFORM GOH THAT WE APPROVE CHANGE REQUESTED BY NAGY TO INSERT WORDS "THE POPULATION OF HUNGARY" IN THE LAST SENTENCE.

3. EXCHANGE OF LETTERS. WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE TO CONCLUDE AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WITH THE GOH JUST PRIOR TO PUBLIC RELEASE OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH WOULD CONFIRM THE ASSURANCES WITH RESPECT TO THE RETURN OF THE CROWN WHICH EACH GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY PROVIDED TO THE OTHER. IN VIEW OF THE INTENSE INTEREST IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE RETURN OF THE CROWN ON THE PART OF SEGMENTS OF THE US PUBLIC AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, AND IN LIGHT OF THE ACTION IN THE US COURTS INITIATED ON DECEMBER 2, WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO THE ADMINISTRATION OVER THE COURSE OF THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS IN PARTICULAR. THEREFORE, YOU ARE REQUESTED TO SEEK GOH AGREEMENT TO AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS AS CONTAINED IN PROPOSED TEXTS WHICH WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTEL. YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT LETTERS CONTAIN NOTHING NEW BUT SIMPLY CONFIRM ARRANGEMENTS WHICH ALREADY HAVE BEEN AGREED TO.

4. PARTICIPATION BY CARDINAL LEKAI. WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE FOR IT TO BE KNOWN PUBLICLY AT THE TIME JOINT COMMUNIQUE IS ISSUED THAT CARDINAL LEKAI IS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CEREMONY ACCEPTING THE CROWN. IT APPEARS TO US THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL POSSIBLE WAYS IN WHICH THIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED, E.G., IN DESCENDING

ORDER OF OUR PREFERENCE, (A) THE CARDINAL HIMSELF
COULD MAKE THIS KNOWN, POSSIBLY AS PART OF STATEMENT
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WELCOMING THE RETURN, (B) GOH COULD INFORM PRESS,
PERHAPS ALSO NOTING NAMES OF OTHER PROMINENT HUNGARIAN
RELIGIOUS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL LEADERS WHO WILL PARTI-
CIPATE, (C) A USG SPOKESMAN COULD INFORM PRESS. YOU
ARE REQUESTED TO EXPLORE THIS MATTER WITH THE GOH AND
REPORT ASAP.

5. VISIT BY HUNGARIAN EXPERTS. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO
INFORM GOH THAT WE WOULD WELCOME VISIT HERE BY HUNGARIAN
EXPERT OR EXPERTS EARLY IN WEEK OF DECEMBER 12. PURPOSE
OF VISIT WOULD BE TO RECEIVE REPORT OF AMERICAN EXPERTS
CONCERNING CONDITION OF CROWN AND OTHER OBJECTS, TO
INSPECT THE OBJECTS, PARTICIPATE IN ANY MINOR RESTORATION
AS MAY BE AGREED, AND DISCUSS PACKING AND OTHER LOGISTICAL
ARRANGEMENTS. THE HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR WILL BE INVITED
TO PARTICIPATE. VANCE UNQUOTE
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, CULTURAL PROPERTY, CAT-B, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Drafter: CWSCHMIDT:BJR
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Executive Order: X3
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Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: SCUL, HU, US
To: BUDAPEST
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